

LANDFIRE

LESSONS LEARNED: Issue 6

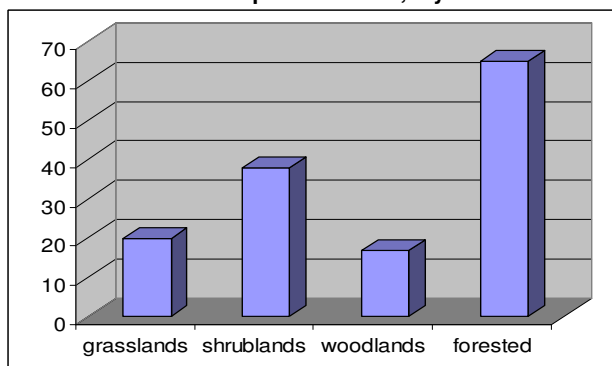
Halfway Point: Western US Rapid Assessment Workshops Completed

With the completion of the sixth LANDFIRE Rapid Assessment reference modeling and mapping workshop for the PNW zone in Portland, OR in November, The Nature Conservancy, the USDA Forest Service, and Department of the Interior have reached the halfway point in the national program to map and model fire regime conditions at a mid-scale for the entire United States.

Nearly 170 individuals from the Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, Fish and Wildlife Service, National Park Service, Bureau of Indian Affairs, US Geological Survey and academia have been trained in quantitative ecological modeling and development of reference conditions for all potential natural vegetation types for the western United States.

The Rapid Assessment map of fire regime conditions will be available in summer 2005.

Number of models completed to date, by life form:



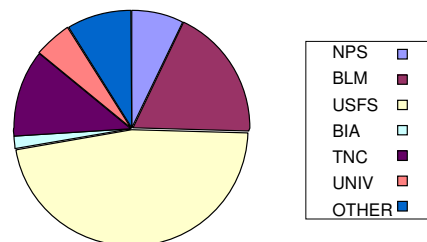
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Lessons Learned in the PNW

- Reviewing the initial list of PNVG models prior to modeling workshops helps participants become familiar with the PNVG concept, and has helped them determine how it relates to their own vegetation classifications.
- If appropriate, even one meeting with key regional staff prior to the workshop to discuss the PNVG concept helps establish a good knowledge base.
- Crosswalking the regional PNVG list with regional vegetation classifications is key to effective local use of models.
- Some Pacific Northwest participants had previous experience with VDDT modeling software. This raised the bar for all participants and increased overall modeling speed and expertise.

To read the latest LANDFIRE article in
The Nature Conservancy magazine, click on:
<http://nature.org/magazine/winter2004/features/art14564.html>